

Fresno, California

May 18, 2007

The City Council met in special session at the hour of 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on the day above written.

Present:	Mike Dages	Councilmember
	Jerry Duncan	Councilmember
	Cynthia Sterling	Councilmember
	Larry Westerlund	Councilmember
	Blong Xiong	Acting Council President
Absent:	Brian Calhoun	Councilmember
	Henry Perea	Council President

Andrew Souza, City Manager
James Sanchez, City Attorney
Becky Klisch, City Clerk
Cindy Bruer, Deputy City Clerk

DIRECT STAFF TO RETURN TO COUNCIL WITH AN AMENDMENT TO AAR NO. 2006-253 APPROPRIATING \$1.2 MILLION OF GENERAL FUND DOLLARS FOR THE PGA VETERAN'S CHAMPION GOLF TOURNAMENT CONTINGENT UPON AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PGA FOR A MINIMUM FIVE YEAR COMMITMENT TO HOLD A PGA GOLF TOURNAMENT AND CONTINGENT UPON A MATCHING GRANT OF \$1.2 MILLION DOLLARS OR GREATER AMOUNT RAISED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Councilmember Westerlund stated the above item was about providing a vision to the City, adding Fresno was the fifth largest city in California, and continually growing, stressing the economic impact of a premiere professional golf tournament would benefit the City of Fresno. He stated the best and greatest players would come to Fresno to play championship golf and at the same time honor the City's veterans. Councilmember Westerlund stated the tournament would provide a \$30 - \$40 million to the City's economy with a one-time down payment on the vision, and requested Council direct staff to return with the appropriating documents to hold a tournament in Fresno for five years, noting the funding would only be committed if the private sector of other entities matched a total of \$1.2million.

Councilmember Westerlund stated the tournament would be held at Copper River for a minimum of two years, adding the golf tournament would be televised nationally for four days. Councilmember Westerlund stressed the need for the City to submit the funding in October to secure the first year, adding it could possibly continue for seven years.

Councilmember Westerlund stated the project had received commitments of approximately \$750,000, adding the budget had an un-appropriated reserve of approximately \$5 million. Councilmember Westerlund stated 90 professional golfers had signed up for the tournament, noting during October there was no other competition that would affect the golf tournament. He stated it was time to be serious about keeping the golf tournament in Fresno for several years.

A motion by Councilmember Westerlund to approve the above entitled item was made and died due to a lack of a second.

Speaking to the issue were: Al Smith, Chamber of Commerce, who stated the golf tournament would provide an economic opportunity for the City and to move the City into an elite status throughout the United States, adding the Chamber was working hard with the community to make this happen. Mr. Smith stated everyone the Chamber had talked with had positive input, noting he would continue to work with the community on bringing the golf tournament to the City; Charles Waters, a Fresno Veteran, expressed concern with the motion not receiving a second and hoped it was not indicative of the veterans. He thanked Council for assisting with the veteran's home project, and expressed disappointment with the developer of the Running Horse project who did not follow through with due diligence, adding the veterans were committed and would continue to work

with the PGA to have the golf tournament this year or in the near future; Burnette Harris, member of H.E.A.T., Southeast Fresno, expressed concern with the possibility of a golf tournament in Fresno, stating it would effect the entire community, adding the money could be used to help the homeless and the unemployed; and Chuck Parnell, American Legion, stated the tournament would directly benefit the veterans home and spoke in support.

City Attorney Sanchez advised since the public testimony had been closed, Council could conclude the matter due to no second was made on the above motion. Councilmember Westerlund expressed his disappointment with not receiving a second, stating the Mayor was trying to find private sector financing for the tournament, adding the motion still allowed the opportunity for the private sector to provide the complete funding. He reviewed the economic impact of a golf tournament which took place in San Francisco in the year 2005 which 47,000 people were in attendance. Councilmember Westerlund stated the City would lose \$30 - \$40 million along with an additional 369 new and part time jobs, adding the decision was a lack of leadership.

City Manager Souza stated the City's concern was to raise \$2.4 million to keep the tournament in Fresno and before the City committed to the funding for the tournament, there needed to be a level of assurance that the event would stay in Fresno for the next five to six years, adding staff was willing to work with the PGA to find solutions stressing there were many details to be worked out. Mr. Souza stated he was disappointed in the negative comments, due to staff was diligently working on the many unresolved issues.

Councilmember Duncan stated when he heard there was a special meeting was disappointed it was not to discuss the serious issue of Herndon Town. He questioned the total cost of the tournament, names of the professional golfers who would be in attendance, the number of people estimated to attend the tournament, and reviewed the economic impact of the American Express World Championship Golf Tournament held in San Francisco in 2005, adding the tournament was attended by 47,000, stating he did not foresee 100,000 people attending the tournament in Fresno. Councilmember Duncan stressed the importance of being fair in what the City wanted to accomplish, expressed concern with there being no major sponsor, adding a golf tournament would be a significant impact to the City, stressing the need to do the project right. He stressed the importance of having a study performed first on what the impacts would be to the City. Councilmember Duncan stated to use the funding from the 2009 budget would affect the Police and Fire funding and would be irresponsible, adding people had worked hard to make the City what it was and was proud of the accomplishments.

Councilmember Westerlund stated this was an opportunity for the City to receive positive coverage, adding a study was unnecessary, appreciated the Mayor's involvement, adding he had worked diligently on economic development for the City. He stated he had worked hard with the community, who, in turn, was willing to put up funding but not in its entirety, stressing the wording in the motion covered all the details. Councilmember Westerlund questioned whether staff would come back to Council when all the issues had been worked out to appropriate \$1.2 million with Mr. Souza stating staff believed when this came to fruition the community would be willing to step up and provide the entire funding. **(2-0)** Councilmember Westerlund recommended staff return to Council to request the \$1.2 million if only \$1.2 million was raised in the timeframe needed to get the tournament going, with Mr. Souza stating staff would return to Council with information staff believed was necessary to make the event work.

Mr. Waters stated everyone had the same goal and stressed the importance of sharing all the information and working together, adding this would be a great addition to District 3. Councilmember Sterling stated her direction was always for the best of the City.

A motion by Councilmember Sterling, seconded by Councilmember Dages, duly carried, RESOLVED the above listed item be continued one week to Friday, May 25, 2007, for further discussion with the entire Council, Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor's Office and the PGA, by the following vote:

Ayes : Dages, Sterling, Westerlund, Xiong
Noes : Duncan
Absent: Calhoun, Perea

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the City Council, the hour of 11:57 a.m. having arrived and hearing no objections, Acting President Xiong declared the special meeting adjourned.

Approved on the _____ day of _____, 2007.

_____ ATTEST: _____	
Acting President Xiong	Cindy Bruer, Deputy City Clerk

